

# **WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS**

## **PROPOSED FEDERAL BIOTERRORISM GRANT PRINCIPLES**

**Revised: April 14, 2003**

The purpose of the Grant is to increase public health emergency preparedness to protect the citizens of Washington in the even of an act of Bioterrorism or another emergency. WSALPHO believes that applying for the federal Bioterrorism Grant is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials. WSALPHO further believes that the public health system in Washington is an integrated system with distinct state and local roles and responsibilities that are mutually dependent upon each other. WSALPHO recognizes that the Grant is a state grant signed by the Governor with ultimate responsibility resting with the Department of Health. WSALPHO also recognizes and appreciates the inclusive approach utilized by the Department of Health in the first grant application process. However, WSALPHO also recognizes the independence of each member of the Association and the Department of Health and further believes that a consensus approach to the final grant application is essential. Furthermore, WSALPHO also believes that support for the grant application by local health jurisdictions representing a very large majority of the state's population should occur before the application is finalized.

Therefore, WSALPHO proposes the following principles be considered as part of the grant application process:

1. WSALPHO continue to be at the table working closely with DOH when allocation of the second round of federal Bioterrorism funding for public health is discussed. WSALPHO supports participating with DOH in discussions about allocation of these funds between state and local agencies as well as among local agencies. WSALPHO supports an overall steering committee including both state and local representatives having overall determination of grant allocations.
2. WSALPHO supports that local health jurisdictions representing a very large majority of the state's population should concur with the plan before it is finalized.
3. WSALPHO supports the plan clearly assuring that both appropriate state and local capacity is achieved and documented.
4. WSALPHO supports the plan being based on all existing assessment data relating to risks, resources and preparedness, and Public Health Improvement Plan Standards for State and local agencies. WSALPHO supports sharing this information during the plan development.
5. WSALPHO supports evaluation as part of the planning process.
6. WSALPHO supports integrating the state and local communications systems during this current Bioterrorism funding cycle and that evaluation of communication systems should be included in the plan.